(c) and (d). In Pilibhit (North Division) during 1991-92 the total quantity of sal seeds auctioned was 13,901 Qtl. and revenue realised was Rs. 15.75 lakhs.

[*English*]

Prohibition Of Dowry

*390. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the evil practice of dowry is still prevalent in the country;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prohibit the same;

(c) the incentives proposed to be given to encourage marriages without dowry; and

(d) whether the Government propose to finance those institutions and voluntary organisations which organise marriages of poor persons without dowry?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have initiated various steps to discourage the giving and taking of dowry. These include:

i) Amendments were made to Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 in 1984 and 1986 and consequential amendments were made in the Criminal Laws, such as the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act. the Dowry Prohibition Act has since been reviewed again in January 1991.

ii) Instructions have been issued to the State Governments and UT Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crime against women.

iii) Mass media compaigns against the social evil of dowry have also been stepped up. Through the programmes of electronic media social awareness regarding the evil is being disseminated.

iv) a number of schemes for training, income generation economic development and various supportive services for women are being implemented by the Government to enable women to become economically independent so that they can withstand demands for dowry.

v) Schemes for awareness generation are being implemented through women's voluntary organisations, institutions and Universities for organising camps, legal literacy programme and other activities for creating awareness of women's rights.

(c) There is no proposal to give incentives for dowryless marriages.

(d) No, Sir.

Integrated Development Of Small And Medium Towns

*391 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount was sanctioned by the Union Government to the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and U.P. under the centrally sponsored Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme during the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, the amounts sanctioned and actually released during that year, separately; and

(c) the allocations made to these States for the year 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) to (c). The following amounts were sanctioned and released under Integrated Development of Small & Medium towns during the year 1990-91 :

1)	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 185 lakhs
2)	Rajasthan	Rs. 82.5 lakhs
3)	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 198.5 lakhs

No schemes were sanctioned for Himachal Pradesh during 1990-91.

No statewise allocation of funds is made under Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns. Project Reports from the State Governments have not yet been received for sanction of schemes during the current year.

Regularisation of Forest Land in Kerala

*392 SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the government of Kerala regarding regularisation of the forests land occupied prior to January 1, 1977 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken by the Union government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). A proposal was received from the State Government of Kerala during July, 1986 for assignment of forest land to the extent of 28,588.159 hectares in Trichur, Ernakulam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Quilon districts in favour of encroachers who were in possession of these lands prior to 1.1.77. Prior to receipt of the proposal in the Ministry, Public Interest Protection Association Munnar had filed an CMP No. 33827/84 dated 30.5.85 in O.P. No. 10797 of 1984-H in the High Court of Kerala seeking stay of all proceedings to make assignment of forest land or issue of patta in Idukki district during pendency of the O.P. the Honourable Court had granted interim stay vide their order dated 30.5.85 which was subsequently made absolute vide their order dated 30.10.85. Now the Honourable Kerala High Court have finally disposed of the O.P. on 3.4.91 stating that Government of India has to take appropriate action under the forest (Conservation) Act keeping in view the merit of the case. On receipt of the judgement the proposal was examined and the State Government has been requested on 2.8.91 to furnish material information. On receipt of the full information, the proposal will be processed for final decision.

DDA Flats To Retiring Government Servants

*393 SHRI ROSHAN LAL:
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has invited applications from Government servants registered under various housing schemes who have retired or are due to retire by December 31, 1993 for allotment of flats on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?